

## \$10,576.33 Unpaid Taxes.

City Treasurer Wright returns \$10,576.33 in unpaid taxes on Owosso city property, the largest amount in years. The total levy was \$93,570.01. The city paid \$83,757.33 in state taxes, \$17,531.91 in county taxes.

## Meeting Postponed

The regular monthly meeting of the Retailers has been postponed until next month at the usual time and place. The postponement was decided on owing to the fact that many of the business men had planned to go to Lansing Wednesday night to attend the Lansing retailers' exposition.

## Eastern Star Convention.

The Shiawassee County Eastern Star convention will be held in Lansing, Wednesday, May 17. Worthy Grand Patron Frank P. Lodge, of Detroit, and Worthy Grand Matron Ruth L. Bingham, of Albion, will be present. The officers are planning an interesting and entertaining program.

## Confirmation at Christ Church.

Right Rev. Charles D. Williams, bishop of Michigan, has announced the evening of March 29 for his annual visitation to Christ Episcopal church. The rector, Rev. W. H. Jordan, will present a class for confirmation at that time.

## Mothers Elect Officers.

There was a good attendance at the fourth ward mothers' meeting held at Mrs. Clarence McCall's and the following officers were elected for the ensuing year: President, Mrs. Louise Coon; vice president, Mrs. Nettie McCall; secretary, Miss Bertha Road; treasurer, Mrs. Sarah Ketchapaw.

## Sues for \$5,000.

Corunna, March 21.—Glen McEachen of Hazelton has begun suit in the circuit court against Charles Conklin, also of Hazelton, for \$5,000. McEachen claims that on March 3, he was riding one of his horses on the highway when Conklin approached from the rear in his automobile, and ran into the horse, breaking one of its hind legs. The animal had to be killed.

## Defer Construction of Owosso Flint Division.

Owing to the fact that materials for railroad construction at the present time are from 25 to 100 per cent higher than normally, the Owosso to Flint section of the Michigan Railways lines will not be built until another season. The extension would connect the Saginaw-Bay City division with the Grand Rapids Jackson division, and is a very desirable move.

## Limit Taken Off—Town Houses Will Be Insured.

Corunna, March 21.—At a meeting of the Shiawassee County Mutual Insurance association Monday, it was voted unanimously to take off the limit to which anyone may insure his property in the association. It was also voted to insure rural churches and schools and town halls. The association voted some months ago to insure churches and schools, but the notice of the election was not sufficient, and to make the matter perfectly safe, another vote was taken.

## Leap Year Party.

The Episcopal parish house on Mason street, was the scene of a pretty social event Friday evening, when 20 of the Owosso Business College girls gave a delightful leap year dancing party. Holman's orchestra furnished music and punch was served. The room was prettily decorated with green and white crepe paper and Mr. and Mrs. J. E. Aitken and Miss Laura Pascoe acted as patron and patronesses. The young men declare they were entertained royally.

## Bouck-Gilbert Wedding

Corunna, March 23.—The marriage of Miss Gertrude E. Gilbert of this city and Howell Harris Bouck of Owosso was solemnized Wednesday evening at 5 o'clock at the home of the bride's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Fred Gilbert, Fraser street. Rev. W. J. Jackson, pastor of the Free Methodist church of Owosso officiated.

Following the ceremony the guests, to the number of fifteen repaired to the home of Mr. and Mrs. S. Newell, grandparents of the bride, where an elegant wedding dinner was served.

Mr. and Mrs. Bouck will make their home at 402 Mack street, Corunna. The groom is employed as a finisher at the Robbins Table Co. Friends extend congratulations.

Four below zero, Thursday, March 23. Gentle spring!

## Concert Recital.

The Misses Cora Vandewater, vocalist, and Vera Richardson, pianist, both of whom are instructors in the Ypsilanti State Normal, will give a recital in the Congregational church on Tuesday evening, March 28th, admission 25 cents. These young ladies should demand a hearing by a crowded house. Do not miss hearing them.

## Stereopticon Sermon.

On Sunday evening next, Rev. L. K. Long, pastor of the Ovid Congregational church, will occupy the pulpit of the Congregational church in this city. The subject will be "The Manifest Works of God," illustrated with a rare and beautiful set of views. A cordial invitation is extended to all to be present.

## Two New Theatres.

The Flint Journal has the following to say concerning work being done by Architect Geo. Bachmann of that city: "Plans for two theatres in Owosso are being designed by Bachmann. One of the theatres is to be conducted by the Strand Theatre company of Owosso. It will be located on Washington street at an estimated cost of \$30,000. The building is to have a semi-fireproof wall constructed of brick and terra cotta. The interior will be decorated in light relief ornamental plaster of the Adams order. It will be modern in every respect. Another theatre to be erected in Owosso will be a beautiful semi-fireproof building to be erected on Main street by B. L. Converse. It will be on lines similar to the Strand theatre. The estimated cost is \$20,000.

## Knights Templar Inspection.

The annual inspection of Owosso Commandery Knights Templar was conducted March 16 by F. A. Aldrich, Deputy Grand Commander. A banquet by the Eastern Star lodge was served before the inspection, the most excellent menu being served at prettily decorated tables placed in the form of a passion cross. Following the banquet solos by T. F. Coulter and E. C. Rexford and remarks by Rev. B. G. Mattson on "The Ideals of Templar Masonry," and by A. L. Chandler on the practical side of Templar Masonry; by Mr. Aldrich, and Judge Matthew Bush for Corunna Commandery made a pleasant and instructive program.

The inspection showed Owosso Commandery in fine condition and Eminent Commander August T. Birk was commended by Mr. Aldrich.

## Save Waste Paper and Rags.

The U. S. Department of Commerce is sending circulars all over the country calling attention to the importance of saving waste paper and rags of all descriptions because of the serious shortage of raw material for the manufacture of paper. It states that something like 15,000 tons of different kinds of paper and paper board is manufactured every day in the United States and that a large proportion of this, after it has served its purposes, could be used over again in some class of paper. A large part of it is, however, burned or otherwise wasted, and has to be replaced by new materials. The advice given years ago to save rags is as important to the paper industry now as when first given. A little attention to the saving of rags and old papers will mean genuine relief to the paper industry and a diminishing drain upon the resources of the country for new material. As there is a market some revenue will come from following the advice.

## Organization of Mutual Fire Insurance Co. Advocated.

Fire insurance rates seem to come in for a good many knocks in Owosso just at present and as a means of relief, W. H. VanSice favors the organization of a mutual company in this city. At the last meeting of the Improvement Association he presented figures showing something as to the cost of insurance and the amount paid for losses in this city, the latter being merely nominal for the last six years. W. C. Cadwallader, C. B. Wolford and R. P. Bigelow, representing various insurance companies, were of the opinion that a mutual company could not be successfully maintained and cited instances of many other similar companies which had failed. Mr. Bigelow intimated rather strongly that the main trouble at present comes from the law passed by the last legislature which prevents competition in insurance rates. O. L. Sprague referred to the steady increase in rates during the years he had been engaged in business in Owosso. The matter was referred to a committee consisting of W. H. VanSice, W. C. Cadwallader, W. E. Hall, R. P. Bigelow and O. L. Sprague.

## Firemen's Law Unconstitutional.

Judge W. G. Gage, of Saginaw, has decided that the law passed by the last legislature giving city firemen one day off in four and two ten-day furloughs each year is unconstitutional as it "is a violation of the rights of the city to local self-government," and that if the legislature could pass such measures it could, by successive acts of this kind, abrogate all the self-governing authority given cities under the home rule law of 1909 and the home rule provision of the state constitution. The Owosso City Commission refused to recognize the validity of the law and it has not been operative in this city. Their action has made quite a saving in the expense of the fire department during the year.

## Park Bonds Approved.

The members of the Improvement Association by unanimous vote at the Tuesday meeting endorsed the proposed issue of bonds in the sum of \$6,500 for the purchase and improvement of the land surrounding the new armory and pledged active support for the same at the approaching city election. This proposition seems to meet with general approval and if carried the land, three or more acres, will probably be acquired and will give the city a very fine central park. Women tax-payers can vote upon this question and it is understood the several women's clubs and organizations will be active in securing a favorable vote.

## Armory Nearing Completion.

Before the end of another week the new State armory will be practically completed. The carpenter work is about out of the way and the inside finish is being pushed along by the painters. The marble bases for the toilets and swimming pool room have been shipped and as soon as they are received the work of installing the marble wainscoting and putting in the tile floors will be commenced. This work will require two weeks' time so that the building ought to be ready for final inspection and acceptance by the State Military Board by April 15th. The lighting fixture contract has been awarded to Townsend & Fulmer, who will install the same within a few days. The lockers for the members of the Company and for the Infantry have been ordered and it is expected that shipment will be made as soon as the building is completed. A board walk approach to the main entrance will probably be laid temporarily pending a decision as to whether the adjacent land is purchased for park uses, after which permanent walks will be built.

## Predicts Hughes' Nomination.

Caro, Mich., March 21.—The prediction of Congressman Joseph W. Fordney of Saginaw, that Supreme Justice Charles E. Hughes of New York will be the Presidential nominee of the Republican national convention drew wild applause and cheers tonight from the more than 400 Republicans attending the banquet here of the Tuscola County Republican club, at which many Michigan notables made addresses, among them several whose names will appear next August on the state primary ticket of the party.

Representative Fordney declared Justice Hughes the strongest Presidential possibility in the Republican party and cited President Wilson's action in sending United States troops into Mexico as a move made for its political effect and to satisfy a purely personal whim instead of its announced purpose of restoring peace in the southern republic and avenging the massacre of American citizens along the Mexican border.

## Mitchell-Millard.

A pretty wedding took place Wednesday at high noon at the home of Mr. and Mrs. J. Mitchell, Hickory street, when their daughter, Miss Iva, became the bride of William Millard of Burton. The wedding ceremony was read by Rev. F. E. Kunsman, pastor of the Burton M. P. church in the presence of about thirty-five invited guests.

Following the ceremony a wedding dinner was served. The Mitchell home was attractively decorated for the event with cut flowers and greenery.

Mr. and Mrs. Millard are well known in this city. The bride is a graduate of the Owosso Business college and for the past several months has been employed in the general offices of the Union Telephone Co. They will make their future home on the groom's farm near Burton.

The many friends in this vicinity extend congratulations and best wishes to Mr. and Mrs. Millard for future happiness.

## REV. W. H. JORDAN RESIGNS

Rector of Christ Episcopal Church Will Go to Grand Lodge May First.

Rev. W. H. Jordan, rector of Christ Episcopal church, tendered his resignation as rector at the morning service, Sunday, and asked to be relieved April 30. He has accepted a call to Trinity church at Grand Ledge. Rev. Jordan has served the church here two years, coming from Fond du Lac, Wisconsin, and his departure will be much regretted by his many friends who will hope for a successful pastorate at Grand Ledge.

Rev. Jordan will present a class of twelve or more for confirmation March 29.

## AUGUST 22-25.

## Shiawassee County Fair and Racing Meet Will Be Held Early.

The county fair dates have been named as August 22, 23, 24, 25, in connection with the short ship racing circuit dates. The grounds are being improved, the track will be put in fine shape and preparations made for a big attendance.

## Alas! The Small Boy.

Soon the small boy of Grand Rapids will have stood for the last time in mute admiration as the fire horses rush madly in response to an alarm. Fire Marshal Boughner announces that all horse-drawn apparatus in the department will be sold to nearby small towns, and in its place we shall have only motor cars. The automobile fire apparatus may be more efficient, it does offer more certain promise of protection, but it never can give to the small boy the thrills which radiated from every burst of speed from the fine, strong horses of the yesterdays. Another of the attractions of boy life is gone. The twentieth century and its efficiency are not friends of boyhood.—Grand Rapids Herald.

Owosso, too, apparently will join the growing list of cities which will deprive not only the small boy but many of more mature years of the pleasure mentioned as motorization of the fire department is probable.

## Women's Clubs Approve Bonding.

The Federation of Women's clubs has become actively interested in the proposition to centralize and motorize the fire department, and several meetings are being planned for next week at which Mayor De Young will explain the plan to the ladies. The federation plans a meeting for Tuesday or Wednesday afternoon at the public library, while the Current Topic club will have a meeting Monday afternoon at which the mayor and City Attorney Miner will talk.

Mrs. Maude Thompson, president of the federated clubs is making arrangements for the meeting at the library. As woman freeholders may vote on the proposed bond issue, the club women believe it their duty to get all the information possible and the mayor is pleased to give them all the data he has.

Word came to the commissioners Thursday that voters in the fifth ward were lining up against the proposition because, a report circulated in that ward said, that the commission has given no assurance that the central station, if erected, will be located at the corner of Main and Shiawassee street, but might be located down town.

"You can tell the people in the fifth ward," said the mayor to the man who brought the information to him "that the site at the corner of Main and Shiawassee is the only one we have under consideration for the central station. This lot is ideally located for a fire station because it is at the geographical center of the city. In addition, it is close to practically all factories in the city. We have nothing to conceal about our plans. We want the people to have all the information possible on the subject, that they may vote intelligently."

The salary of Assistant Postmaster H. P. White has been increased \$100 a year effective from April 1st. It is well deserved.

Miss Wilma Demuth left this morning for Youngstown, Ohio, to spend the spring vacation at the home of her grandparents. Mr. and Mrs. Demuth have been there a number of days on account of the sickness of the latter's mother.

Dr. E. S. Walton, of Richmond, father of Fred Walton, formerly well known in Owosso, died Saturday night. Fred Walton was formerly editor of the Shiawassee Reporter, but for many years has been employed by the Robert Smith Printing company at Lansing.

## HOTEL PROSPECTS

### ARE BRIGHTER

Proposal to Organize Company to Purchase and Enlarge Wildermuth—Option Given for Ninety-nine Year Lease on National

At the close of the business half-hour session at the Improvement Association luncheon, Tuesday, the hotel committee considered an informal proposition made by E. B. Hoffman for the organization of a company with a stock of \$40,000 to purchase, enlarge and remodel the Hotel Wildermuth, providing a larger and more up-to-date office, dining room and kitchen on the first floor, additional sleeping rooms with baths on the second and third floors; toilet rooms in the basement and other changes which would make a modern hotel. The plan would include two small stores on the ground floor to be rented. Mr. Hoffman has already consulted an architect who has looked the property over and it is expected that a prospective sketch with an estimate as to cost will soon be prepared. The stock issue is to consist of \$20,000 preferred and \$20,000 common, each to have voting privilege, the former to draw 6 per cent with the same amount to the common stock in case the earnings are sufficient—earning above this amount to be divided equally or used as the management may deem best. The stock will be in \$50 shares, one share or more of each kind to be sold to stockholders and Mr. Hoffman will accept in payment for the property, 66 feet frontage on Washington street and 198 feet deep on Comstock, \$20,000 in stock, half preferred and half common. On this basis all stockholders would be on an equal footing and the management would be in charge of a board of directors. Since the meeting Tuesday, the necessary legal papers have been drawn and some stock subscriptions made. Mr. Hoffman intends to push the matter along as rapidly as possible.

While the deal for the National hotel property has not as yet taken definite form there is a strong probability that it will shortly. C. M. Butterworth of Lansing, architect of the new Lincoln school, has obtained an option for a ninety-nine year lease on the property and the lease covering the same has been received and is now under consideration by the management of the Patterson estate, owners of the property. Mr. Butterworth contemplates the organization of a company capitalized at \$123,000 to erect a four story building, a portion of the lower floor to be used for store purposes and the balance for a magnificent modern hotel, the present building to be entirely torn down. Mr. Butterworth informed the hotel committee at a meeting on Friday last that while he desired to have Owosso capital interested in the project he was prepared to carry it through in any event and that within a year a fine new hotel would stand on the National corner.

Owosso needs better hotel accommodations and the citizens will be interested in these propositions.

## 'I'll Convert Ford to Preparedness.'

New York, March 21.—While packing some newly invented bait that will make any fish leave home, Thomas A. Edison paused long enough in his West Orange laboratory last night to remark: "We're in for big trouble in Mexico, but we'll blunder through it. Germany will last one more year and then will be crushed."

"Every young buck in this country ought to be trained to be a soldier."

"But you can't force preparedness on this country until it is too late."

"After the European war, preparedness agitation here will die out, and then war with us will be a walkover for some nation."

"This nation will flourish for awhile, will reach its apex, then will deteriorate and die."

"All nations have risen and fallen. Germany is on the wane. Our turn will come."

"We've got to get more efficiency in this country. Nothing can be wasted. Everything must be done well."

"There should be an income tax for all. Workingmen would be willing to pay at least a dollar a year."

"Henry Ford will be my guest in Florida and I'm going to convert him to preparedness."

"If this country goes to war, you may be sure Henry Ford will place his plants and his fortune at the disposal of the government."

Mr. and Mrs. Francis Palmer of St. Johns, were in the city Thursday on business connected with the estates of Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Halstead.

## QUESTIONS ANSWERED

### Commission Wants Thorough Understanding of Bonding Propositions.

The city commission is pleased to answer the questions of "Taxpayer" in regard to the proposed improvement in the Fire Department, as follows:

First: Motor driven apparatus gives better service because it can get away from the fire house quicker than horse drawn apparatus. Each horse truck is provided with a pump capable of throwing one powerful stream of water at a much higher pressure than is furnished from the water mains. This would be a decided advantage in the case of fire in a factory, large business building or where the water mains were small and the pressure from them low.

Second: The yearly cost of operating the present horse drawn system is \$11,581.83 and the yearly cost of operating the motor driven system would be \$8,642.83 or \$2,939.00 less than it is now costing the city. This saving is enough to pay the average interest on bonds and pay \$2,000.00 per year on the principal without adding to the taxes. Or in other words the city can have the use of a modern motor driven fire department without adding one cent to the taxes and at the end of fifteen years own the plant. After the plant is paid for the net saving to the city will be approximately \$3,000.00 per year. We believe this a splendid business proposition.

Third: The fact that such cities as Lansing, Bay City, Saginaw, Flint and scores of others have substituted motor driven for horse-drawn fire apparatus ought to be conclusive evidence that motor driven apparatus can successfully negotiate dirt roads. If there is any question in the mind of "Taxpayer" in regard to this matter, we suggest that he visit Flint where he will find dirt roads compared to which the dirt roads of Owosso are boulevards, yet the insurance companies think so well of Flint's motor driven fire department that they have given her a class two rating. There are only two other cities in this insurance class in Michigan—Grand Rapids and Detroit, both of which are completely equipped with motor driven apparatus. Most of the cities in Michigan are in classes ranging from 2 1/2 to 5. Owosso is in class three. No city that has once adopted the motor driven apparatus has ever returned to horse drawn apparatus.

Fourth: This we believe is covered in the answer to your third question, however we hope, in the near future, to publish some letters from fire chiefs of cities having motor-driven apparatus giving their experiences.

Fifth: The workingman who lives outside the business district will receive more benefit from a motor driven fire department than any other individual in the city, because living at a distance, the motor driven machines would reach his home in probably half the time taken by horse drawn apparatus, reaching the fire earlier, the chemical which each motor driven machine carries could be used more effectively, and in case the chemicals were not sufficient and there were no water mains the pumps with which each motor horse truck is provided could take water from any well, cistern or creek in the vicinity and with them subdue the fire.

Sixth: The bonded indebtedness, when the commission came into office was \$256,000.00, today it is \$241,500 or a reduction in two years of \$14,500.00. In addition to this there has been placed in the sinking fund \$1,300.00 making the reduction in the bonded indebtedness \$15,800.00.

We wish to thank "Taxpayer" for asking these questions, through the newspapers and hope that citizens will follow his example as this is an important question and every voter should be well informed there on before casting ballot.

Yours very respectfully,  
The City Commission,  
James DeYoung, Mayor.

## Bound Over for Pray Law Violation.

The examination of Adam Hillis of Saginaw, charged with violating the Pray law, came to an end in justice court here Wednesday afternoon when John T. McCurdy, attorney for the defense, announced when the prosecution had finished, that he would not make any defense in the lower court. Hillis was immediately bound over to the circuit court. He furnished a new bond in the sum of \$300.

Hillis was caught when the police raided the home of Eleanor May, 1307 West Main street ten days ago and confiscated nearly three dozen pints of beer. Hillis admitted bringing the beer from Saginaw for a party at the May home.